

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03050 171346Z

46

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TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: JUSTICE PARTY'S REPLY TO REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

CRITICISM

REF: ANKARA 3014

SUMMARY: THE JUSTICE (JP), NATIONAL SALVATION (NSP) AND REPUBLICAN RELIANCE (RR) PARTIES ISSUED STRONG REBUTTALS TO REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LEADER ECEVIT'S CRITICISM. WITH PARLIAMENTARY BATTLE LINES DRAWN, THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT MAY SEEK AN EARLY PARLIAMENTARY RECESS IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT ITS PROGRAM BY ADMINISTRATIVE DECREE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03050 171346Z

1. IN RESPONSE TO REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LEADER

BULENT ECEVIT'S CRITICISM OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT (REFTEL), THREE OF THE PARTIES FORMING THE RIGHT-WING COALITION ANSWERED ECEVIT APRIL 16 IN EQUALLY STIFF LANGUAGE. THE JUSTICE PARTY'S (JP) RULING COUNCIL ISSUED A STATEMENT ACCUSING ECEVIT OF RESORTING TO "UNCONSCIONABLE AND MORALLY UNACCEPTABLE" METHODS IN SEEKING TO BRING DOWN THE NATIONALIST FRONT. REJECTING ECEVIT'S CHARGE THAT THE NATIONALIST FRONT HAD BEEN FORMED ONLY TO AVOID EARLY ELECTIONS, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT'S TEN MONTHS IN OFFICE. IT ACCUSED THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT OF BRINGING TO IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS MEN WHO HAD "OPENLY ASSISTED BANK ROBBERS, KIDNAPPERS AND THE AMBITIONS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM," AND CHARGED THE RPP WITH HAVING DENIED FIFTY YEARS OF ATATURK REFORMS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ONE VOTE -- A REFERENCE TO A RELIGIOUSLY CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) PARLIAMENTARIAN HASAN DEGER, WHO SWITCHED TO THE RPP JUST BEFORE THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

2. THE NATIONAL SALVATION (NSP) AND REPUBLICAN RELIANCE (RR) PARTIES ALSO DEFENDED THE COALITION AND TURNED ECEVIT'S REMARKS BACK AGAINST HIM. THE RR RULING COUNCIL, REACTING TO ECEVIT'S STATEMENT THAT THE RPP EMERGED UNTAINTED AND STRONGER FROM THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE INTRIGUES, SAID IN A COMMUNIQUE THAT THE RPP HAD "SEDUCED" PARLIAMENTARIANS AWAY FROM THEIR PARTIES THROUGH "METHODS THAT WOULD NEVER GAIN IT HONOR." NSP SPOKESMAN SULEYMAN ARIF EMRE CALLED ON ECEVIT TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CHARGES OF BRIBERY.

3. COMMENT: WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RPP OPPOSITION EACH CLAIMING A SUPERIOR MORAL POSITION WHILE TRADING INSULTS, THE LINES OF BATTLE HAVE BEEN DRAWN. THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT CAN PROBABLY COUNT ON THE OPPOSITION TO USE EVERY TACTIC AVAILABLE TO UNDERMINE THE COALITION'S PROGRAM IN PARLIAMENT. GIVEN THESE CONDITIONS, POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE ARE SPECULATING THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WILL STALL ON ITS PROGRAM UNTIL PARLIAMENT CAN BE RECESSED. (TO DATE THE ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MUSTER A QUORUM.) THESE OBSERVERS BELIEVE ONCE PARLIAMENT IS IN RECESS, THE NATIONALIST FRONT WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT BY ADMINISTRATIVE DECREE ITS PROGRAMS AND PROPOSED REFORMS IN THE BUREAUCRACY DURING THE MONTHS BERICER PARLIAMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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